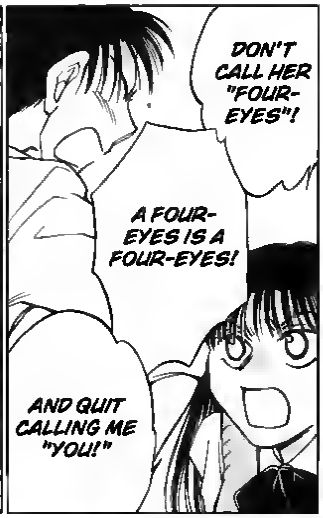
Chapter 9: Slow starter

"I'M NOT MAD!"
"ARE YOU MAD?"
"I'M SO JEALOUS!"
ACTU-LLY,
I WAS A LITTLE BIT ANNOYED
JUST A LITTLE.

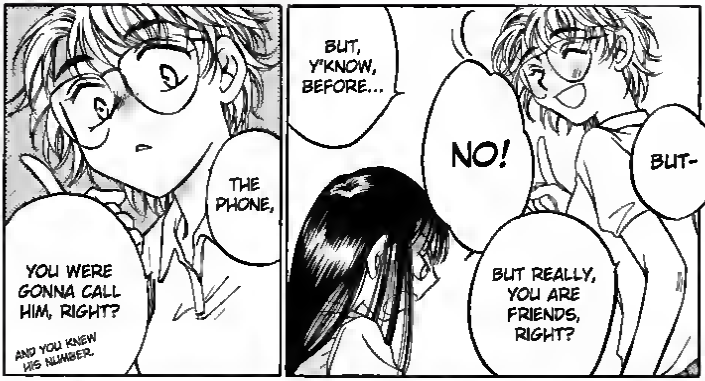
YOU KNOW...
COULD YOU JUST GIVE UP ON ME ALREADY?
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL? DID I SAY ANYTHING?
YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU?
WOULD YOU QUIT BEING SO CONCEITED!?
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT?
WAS IT THAT FOUR-EYES?
SHE'S THE ONE TELLING YOU STUFF THAT AIN'T TRUE, RIGHT!?

stop fighting ♪~
stop, you two~ ♪ ♪


DON'T CALL HER "FOUR-EYES"!
A FOUR-EYES IS A FOUR-EYES!
AND QUIT CALLING ME "YOU!"

HEY!
HOWDY!!
WELL, AREN'T YOU TWO EARLY~

Don't fi-ght o-ver me~
AND YOU GO AWAY!!
GO AWAY, YOU!!
YOU TOOK THE SAME TRAIN?
That's right.
YOU TWO CAME FROM THE SAME PREFECTURE, RIGHT?
LIKE THAT'D HAPPEN!
HATANA-KA!!
HE RETREATED.
...I KNOW THAT, BUT
THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING BETWEEN US.
LET ME SAY,


BUT, Y'KNOW, BEFORE...
NO!
BUT-
BUT REALLY, YOU ARE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
THE PHONE,
YOU WERE GONNA CALL HIM, RIGHT?
AND YOU KNEW HIS NUMBER.

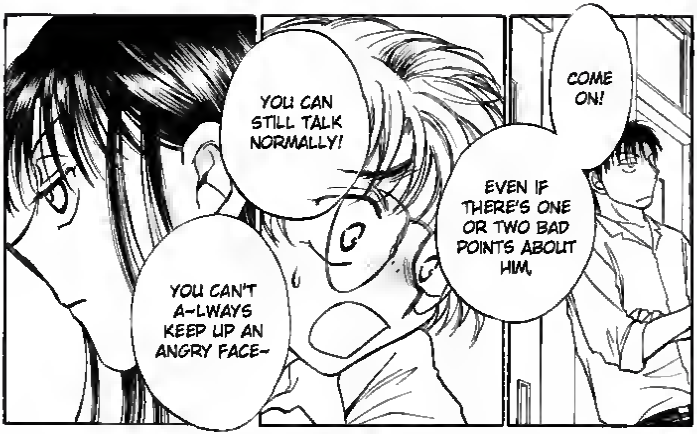
I'll just call Honda or somebody,
and you can have a go with him!!

かぁっ

...
?
ASAMI ...?
YOU'RE THINKING "WHAT THE HELL," AREN'T YOU.
THAT I'M A GIRL ...
WHO'S ALL TALK...
!?
I DON'T, I DON'T, I DON'T!!
THAT EVEN AS I INSIST I HATE HIM,
I'M NOT AS UNHAPPY WITH IT AS I SEEM, RIGHT...

THAT I PUT ON AIRS AND...
STO~~P!!
ASAMI!
YOU'RE OVERTHINKING IT!!

FRIENDS ARE JU~ST FRIENDS!
YOU DON'T WANT HONDA SAYING THAT HE LOVES YOU!
BUT!
THAT'S ALL, ISN'T IT!?
thin walls...



YOU CAN'T GO AROUND LOOKING DEPRESSED EVERY SINGLE DAY, YOU KNOW?
AND EVEN IF YOU'RE RE~ALLY DOWN,
to say this
I'm doing my best
LOOK!
EVEN IF SAD THINGS HAPPEN,
YOU CAN'T JUST CRY ALL DAY.

A SHELTERED GIRL WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WORLD ..

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NEVER EVEN HAD A TASTE...
OF THIS WORLD'S SADNESS AND FRUSTRATION...
EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T KNOW A THING
NO.
SORRY...
BUT... NO.
?
SORRY...
HATANAKA...
?
:

LET'S GO!!
ASAMI ~
C'MON, GET YOUR BAG!
EH ...
HONDA!!
.....-KUN!
TELL THEM THAT ASAMI WENT HOME EARLY BECAUSE SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL!!
CLASS HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET...
"WENT HOME EARLY"
...

ALRIGHT ~!!
IT'S THE OCEAN~!!

a ha
ha ha ha
ISN'T IT INVIGO-RATING!!
YEAH. SURE.
IT'S EVEN SO CLOUDY THAT IT MIGHT RAIN ANY SECOND.
I ACTUALLY WANTED TO GO TO YOUR TOWN, ASAMI~...
NO
WAY.

THERE'S NO ORDER,
IT'S FILTHY.
THE ENTIRE CITY.. EVEN THE ROADS... NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO,

BOO -!
BOO -!
I WON'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT IT'S DANGEROUS DURING THE DAY, BUT...
CUT THAT OUT...

TO BE HONEST,
I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE IT.

AND THAT "PROSTITUTE" STUFF...
CUT THAT OUT TOO.....

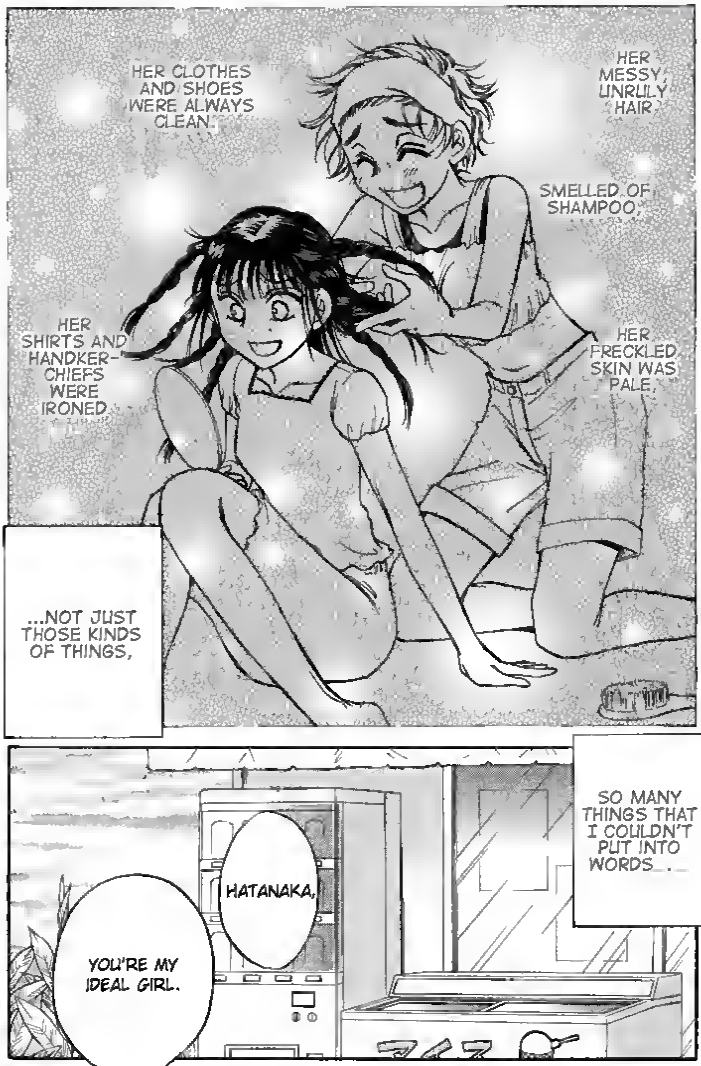
SO THA~T'S WHAT'S BUGGING YOU!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT"!?
THAAA~T'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN IN SUCH A BAD MOOD THIS WHOLE TIME~
I AM NOT IN A BAD MOOD!!
GIVE ME A BREAK ~
BUT ...
IF YOU DO "THAT" ...
...THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW,
YOU'LL BE TOTALLY MESSED UP!!!

IT'S SO EASY TO FOOL OTHERS AND GET FOOLED...
AND...
IT'S SO EASY TO END UP DEAD!
ACT SO CARELESSLY ...
THAT'S -
I'M NOT SAYING IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT,
BUT ...
THAT KIND OF THING...
I SAW A TON OF IT...

I'M GONNA GO SWIM!
ALRIGHT!

HUH!?
I'M JUST GONNA GO GET MY FEET WET~
JUST KIDDING ~ ♡
HA
TA
NA
KA~
I UNDER-STAND... WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.
PROBABLY.
I UNDERSTAND IT TOO~

WITH THAT EXPRES-SION .
Nnah!
This is- colder
than I thou-ght!
HATA-NAKA...
UU?
...DOESN'T REALLY KNOW
YOU DON'T GET IT.
YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE SELF-CONFI-DENCE.
WHAT SHE WANTS TO DO ..
THAT NO MAN WOULD TOUCH YOU IF YOU WEREN'T A PROSTITUTE .....
NO GIRL IS THAT UNATTRACTIVE ...


HER CLOTHES AND SHOES WERE ALWAYS CLEAN.
HER MESSY, UNRULY HAIR.
SMELLED OF SHAMPOO.
HER SHIRTS AND HANDKER-CHIEFS WERE IRONED.
HER FRECKLED SKIN WAS PALE.
...NOT JUST THOSE KINDS OF THINGS,
SO MANY THINGS THAT I COULDN'T PUT INTO WORDS...
HATANAKA,
YOU'RE MY IDEAL GIRL.

"IF I WAS A GUY,"
"I'D FALL FOR YOU, HATANAKA?"
bluntly
NOT THAT!!
BUT YOU KNOW,
"I'M A PROSTITUTE~" "BUT I'M FREE~"
A GIRL SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT ...
GOES PAST THE LEVEL OF "A GOOD SITUATION".
TO DOWNRIGHT CREEPY.
AND NOW!!
ガーーん
ガーーん
LET'S GET BACK TO SCHOOL~ !!
EH ~!?

IF WE HURRY, WE CAN MAKE THE FIRST AFTERNOON PERIOD!
LET'S JUST SKIP TODAY~!
NO!
EEH ~!?
EEEH ~!?
LET'S JUST GO EAT LUNCH~!
I'm hungry~
THEN EAT ON THE TRAIN!
I LIKE YOU, HATANAKA ...
I FELT RAIN JUST NOW!
UWA!!
ONE DAY ...
RUN!!

ONE DAY, THE PUZZLE IN MY HEART WILL BE SOLVED,
AND EVERY PATH WILL BE OPENED
THAT'S THE FEELING I GET...
WHEN THAT HAPPENS,
EVEN IF IT'S A LATE START,
WE'LL START GOING, WITHOUT A CARE

ごじゃあああ
HYAA ~!
IT REALLY CAME DOWN~!
totally!
WHEN IT RAINS LIKE THIS,
IT'S THE END OF THE RAINY SEASON, RIGHT!
QUIT LAUGHING ~
A~NYWAYS, LET'S MAKE IT TO CLASS~~
SO SHH !!
THE TEACHERS'LL SPOT US!

YE~AH, AYE AYE
IT'S ENTI~RELY MY OWN FAULT.
DON'T SAY "SOAKED"!
UU~ ...
I'M SOAKED ALL THE WAY TO MY UNDER-WEAR~...
WAIT, THERE'S A TOWEL IN MY BAG...
SHH!!
FLEX TIME?
YOU GUYS'RE GONNA GET IT...
CRAP, A TEACHER?

HE HE
DON'T BE SO NERVOUS.
I'M NOT A TEACHER YET.
NO, UM- WE LEFT EARLY THIS MORNING...
*FLEX TIME IS THAT A WORD?
UM, AND SO...
I GOT CAUGHT UP IN A BUNCH OF FORMALITIES,
AND GOT DELAYED A BIT
LU-CKY?
?
HMM?
HA
AH
AAH... I SEE.
UMM, UMM,
STARTING TOMORROW,
I'LL START TEACHING PRACTICE.
SO SHE WENT WITH ME WHEN I LEFT EARLIER...
.....I WASN'T FEELING GOOD,

BUT I'M FEELING BETTER NOW, SO I CAME ..

ガラッ
AAH~ ...
UWA ...
TODAY, I ONLY INTENDED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF,
BUT TO SEE YOU AGAIN...

THIS MUST BE FATE.
ASAMI?
?

I'VE MISSED YOU.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, TSUBAKI.

WITH THAT...
...OUR LONG SUMMER WOULD BEGIN.

シュガーはお年頃

Sugar wa Otoshigoro

Chapter 9: Slow starter

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